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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE 9 DEC 2005

Application of: Pietrangelo, Antonello Confirmation No.: To be assigned

Serial No.: National Stage of PCT/EP2004/051068, Art Unit: To be assigned

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For: MUTATIONS IN THE SLC40A1 Attorney Docket No: 8907-109-999

GENE ASSOCIATED TO IMPAIRED

IRON HOMEOSTASIS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.115

Mail Stop PCT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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Please consider the following preliminary amendment that is submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.115 in connection with the above-identified application.

This paper includes:

Amendment to the Specification beginning on page 2;

Amendment to the Drawings beginning on page 3;

Amendment to the Claims beginning on page 4;

Remarks beginning on page 11; and

Three (3) Sheets of Drawings comprising Figures 1-3.

Also included herewith is a copy of foreign priority document Italian Application No. MI2003A001156, filed June 9, 2003, with the Italian patent office.